

## IDENTIFICATION OF LATHE SHAVINGS

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A tool mark case recently submitted to the laboratory involved the larceny of scrap metal; namely a quantity of aluminum lathe shavings from a factory site in Michigan. The shavings had then been transported to a junk yard in Indiana where they were sold for scrap. The trooper investigating the complaint obtained a sample of the shavings from both the factory site and the junk yard, and submitted them to the laboratory. A total of 40 pieces of metal shavings with an overall length of approximately 548 inches were submitted for examination.

The difficulty, as was expected in conducting an examination of items such as this, was that the tool marks changed not only from shaving to shaving, but also from one end of a piece of a shaving to the other. It was necessary to compare each piece of shaving from the two samples with each other, and along the entire length of each sample. This process became very involved and time consuming. After many hours of examination, a positive identification was made.

Robert B. Cilwa  
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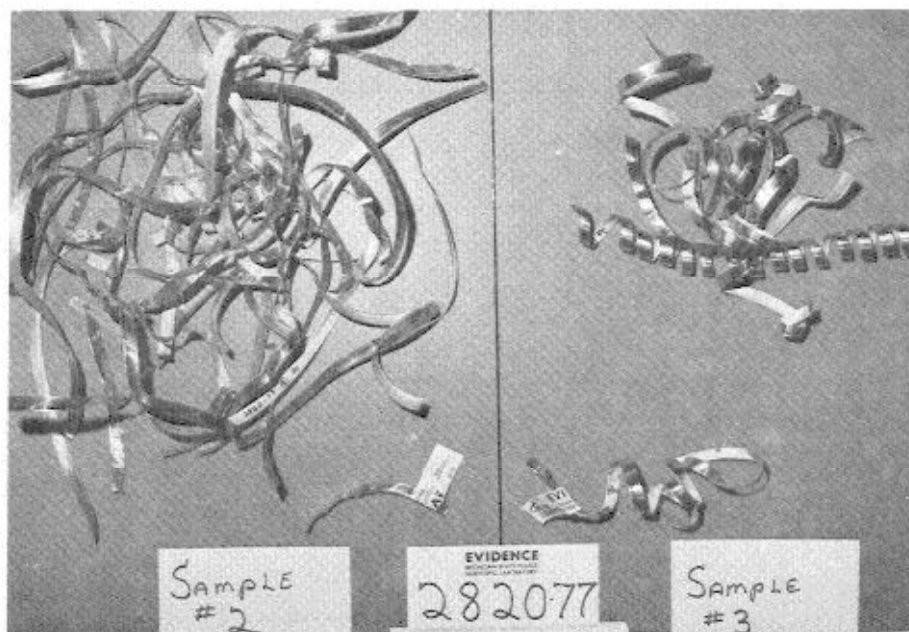


Photo #1

Photograph of the two samples of metal shavings submitted to the laboratory; in the lower portion of the photo are the pieces identified by the laboratory.



Photo #2

Photomicrograph of the tool marks present on the two shavings.

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Old firearms examiner saying: The 10 minutes spent in making notes for the evidence being examined will save many hours in trying to refresh your memory months later. (anon)